

Filed for intro on 03/16/98

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 599  
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of DeWitt Weaver, Captain  
of the 1936 University of Tennessee football  
team.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret that we learned of the death of Coach DeWitt  
Weaver; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Weaver was born, in Nashville in May, 1912 and was raised in  
Jacksonville, Florida; and

WHEREAS, he played football for Andrew Jackson High School and also played for  
legendary University of Tennessee football coach General Robert Neyland, expertly captaining  
the great 1936 squad; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Weaver also generously contributed his time and ability as president of  
his senior class; and

WHEREAS, he started his brilliant coaching career as the Volunteer's freshman coach  
for 1937 and in 1938 became coach at Centre College; and

WHEREAS, from 1942-1945, DeWitt Weaver served his country bravely as a Lt.  
Commander in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, after the war, he resumed his coaching career and served as the highly  
regarded Assistant Football Coach at Mississippi State University from 1946-1948; and

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WHEREAS, a successful two-year stint as Head Coach at Tulsa University from 1949-1950 included having the highest scoring team in the nation; and

WHEREAS, starting in 1951, Coach Weaver served admirably as Athletic Director and Head Coach at Texas Tech University for ten years; and

WHEREAS, among his many accomplishments with the Texas Tech Red Raiders was their move from the Border Conference to the Southwest Conference, an appearance in the Sun Bowl and a trip to the Cotton Bowl; and

WHEREAS, Coach Weaver was also responsible for doubling the size of the Red Raiders stadium; and

WHEREAS, DeWitt Weaver concluded his sterling career in athletics by serving as Commissioner of the Missouri Valley Conference for three productive years; and

WHEREAS, he also helped raise money to keep the Blue-Gray game financially secure and to found the prestigious Senior Bowl; and

WHEREAS, he had the rare distinction of being a member of five halls of fame: Texas Tech, Texas, Alabama, the City of Jacksonville, and the Gator Bowl; and

WHEREAS, DeWitt Weaver was the loving husband of the former Mary Kernon Sheffield and proud father of DeWitt, Jr., who is married to Sheri; and "Kitty" Kathleen Ferguson, who is married to Kenneth; and

WHEREAS, his grandchildren include Dewitt III, Cathy, Brian, Scott, Kenneth Wayne Ferguson, Jr., and Mary Kathleen Ferguson; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor DeWitt Weaver; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of DeWitt Weaver and express our condolences to his family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.